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DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : May I know what those practical difficulties are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The difficulties were that the examinations had to be conducted not only in Tamil but also in other languages. Therefore, it was not possible to co-ordinate them.

Poet Laureateship of the State

* 91 *Q.*—SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to revive the Poet Laureateship of the State;

(*b*) if so, the date on which it will be revived;

(*c*) whether there is any other scheme to encourage Tamil Poets and Scholars; and

(*d*) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) There is no proposal as such to encourage Tamil Poets and Scholars. The Government have, however, instituted a scheme for the award of ten prizes for the best books on various subjects in Tamil each year at the rate of Rs. 1,000 each. The Government have also instituted a scheme for the award of ten prizes of Rs. 500 each for books in Tamil for children. Scholars in the language are also encouraged by being appointed as members of Committees like the one constituted for the prepartion of the glossary of Administrative Terms in Tamil, etc.

SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Sir, Poet Laureateship is a very laudable institution. While there may have been some justification for doing away with it in the past when there were 4 regional languages, now after the reorganization of the States on a linguistic basis when Tamil happens to be the official language of the State, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to reconsider the whole thing as it is the best way to encourage Tamil?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think that it is the best way of encouraging Tamil. It is a matter of opinion.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know why the Government have decided to give up this institution which was started, I think in 1948 or so, when Sri Madhava Menon was the Education Minister?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Because it was not found necessary.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Are there no poets in Tamil Nad?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There are many poets and so, there is no point in choosing one as the Poet Laureate.

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Apart from there being many poets outside, as stated by the Hon. the Education Minister, there may be many poets inside this very House. That being the case, what is the chance for them to get this honour if there is no such scheme to honour poets?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is why we do not want to name any one as Poet Laureate. All are Poet Laureates.

Lay Secretary and Treasurer

* 92 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the Government hospitals and other medical institutions having Lay Secretary and Treasurer and the duties assigned to the Lay Secretary and Treasurer;

(*b*) who performs the duties of Lay Secretary and Treasurer in other hospitals; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to post a Lay Secretary and Treasurer to all District Headquarters Hospitals and, if so, when it will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) The routine duties are performed by the Assistant District Medical Officer or Resident Medical Officer, as the case may be, and the financial powers are exercised by the District Medical Officer or Superintendent of the hospital, as the case may be.

(*c*) No, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us on what has become of the proposal made by the T.B. Sanatorium Rehabilitation Committee proposing the appointment of a Lay Secretary for rehabilitation work in that centre?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, the Director of Medical Services is examining the question of appointing Lay Secretaries for all Headquarters Hospitals. In that connexion. this matter will also be considered.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : May I know whether the Hon. Minister has fixed any qualifications for the appointment of these Lay Secretaries keeping in view the fact that as many as 14 duties of various descriptions including the purchase of drugs and various other articles are assigned to them? What are the qualifications fixed and how are these Lay Secretaries appointed ?

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 20–22 infra.